

III. REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 1, 8, 16, 20, 28 and 33 have been amended. Applicant does not acquiesce in the correctness of the rejections and reserves the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed. Further, Applicant reserves the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by either Baker *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,422,821), hereafter “Baker.”

Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephone interview of September 7, 2006, with their representative, Hunter E. Webb. A proposed amendment was submitted in advance of the interview. In the interview, Applicant’s representative discussed features of the claimed invention that Applicant asserts are not disclosed by Baker, including those features included in the above claims as amended. The Examiner agreed with Applicant that there are differences between the claimed invention and Baker and suggested that Applicant amend the claims to narrow them in ways such as those enumerated above.

IV. CONCLUSION

In addition to the above arguments, Applicant submits that each of the pending claims is patentable for one or more additional unique features. To this extent, Applicant does not acquiesce to the Office's interpretation of the claimed subject matter or the references used in rejecting the claimed subject matter. These features have not been separately addressed herein for brevity. However, Applicant reserves the right to present such arguments in a later response should one be necessary.

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner require anything further to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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